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MONEY PROSPECTS IN DOMINION GOOD

Favorable Crop Indications and Improved Bank Statement Factors in View.

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

TORONTO, June 28.—Continuance

of the favorable weather, with copious rains

and good crop prospects, has led some

of the bankers to look for a resumption

of the money situation. They say that

the optimism that would come with an

assured heavy crop would be reflected

in business generally, and means would

be found of providing money in more

generous quantities. This is perhaps one

form of slightly increased optimism of

the past few days. It has been reflected

in rallies in the stock markets, where

the tone has been better, and where

the arrival of some private funds for

trading purposes brought a more

cheerful feeling among brokers and

traders.

There was, too, the slightly improved

showing of the bank statement for May,

where the notice deposits increased

about \$20,000,000 and the current loans

decreased only about \$2,000,000.

The banks are taking evidence that the

banks are having some success in curbing

retailing credits. The slowing down of

retail business, which is now fairly gen-

eral, would also be an element in re-

stricting current loans. It is instructive

to read, however, that current loans in

Canada have increased by \$37,000,000

since May of last year, which is some

measure of the increased inflation, as

well as the prosperity, artificial and

insubstantial as it may be in some de-

gree.

Another reflection of the banks' posi-

tion is seen in the number of reduced

price sales, especially in clothing and

boots and shoes. The banks are under-

stood to have brought pressure to this

end, maintaining that even though mer-

chants might suffer some loss in pres-

ent liquidations it is recognized that they

had done an extremely profitable busi-

ness and their selling price had always

moved ahead, thus adding to their profit

on an earlier buying price. But the in-

flations still show a good increase over

last year, but not so high an advance as

some months ago, that for this week

being 20.4 per cent, compared with be-

tween 30 and 40 per cent in the year.

Trade Balance Disquieting.

That Canada is once more accumulat-

ing an adverse trade balance is some-

what disquieting, though the later

months of the year may correct the

tendency with the export of crops and

other products. For the first five

months of this calendar year there

was an adverse balance of \$14,614,425,

only January showing a surplus of ex-

ports over imports. This naturally has

a bearing on the exchange position be-

tween here and the United States. New

York funds have been at a premium of

13 to 15 per cent of late, and though

there was the immediate condition of

heavy commitments for interest due in

New York on July 1, there was also the

adverse balance of trade, partly from

the shortage on your side of re-

shipments from here. Total imports for

the five months were \$545,000,000, com-

pared with \$428,000,000 exports.

Results are promised from the con-

ference at Ottawa of representatives of

Canada and the British West Indies. A

preliminary statement reports a unani-

mous agreement for increased mutual

commerce and extension of the list of

products upon which preferences are

granted. A better steamship and cable

service is also recommended.

There is little change in business and

trade conditions in the Dominion, though

a slight improvement in retail trade is

reported. Clothing manufacturers in

Toronto have been affected by the re-

sult of high prices until they are work-

ing at half time on an average. Gar-

ment makers are also working at less

than capacity. There will be a reduced

production of lumber in the Ottawa

valley, while British Columbia lum-

bermen are finding a lessened demand

and prices are inclined to be easier.

For four days of the week Toronto

was dependent on jitney service while

the employees of the Toronto Railway

Company were on strike for higher

wages, but on Saturday night they ac-

cepted an offer of five cents an hour

increase after first demanding thirty

cents and later eleven cents. At no

time in the dispute had they any sub-

stantial sympathy from the public.

An important incident in labor matters

was the closing down of the huge power

canal operations by the Ontario Hydro

Electric Commission at Chippewa, near

Niagara Falls. This action was taken

following a strike by the workmen after

a generous increase in wages, the men

demanding a straight eight hour day,

with higher pay for two hours overtime,

and the commission insisting on ten

hours' work without overtime.

The commission took the ground that

they would no longer submit to further

demands by labor, as it prejudiced their

ability to sell the power at reasonable

prices with such high costs. The sud-

den action in ceasing operations took the

men by surprise, and they have been

speedily informed from the company's

bankhouses and are seeking employ-

ment in Buffalo and in different parts of

Canada.

Financial State of Provinces.

A review of the financial position of

the Provinces of Canada, as revealed in

their statements at recent sessions of the

Legislatures, shows steadily extending

operations, but, on the whole an evi-

dent intention to keep ordinary ex-

penditures well within the limits of re-

venue. Fixed charges are increasing, but not out

of proportion to the growth of revenue

from ordinary services. There has been

some capital expenditure, but it should

be remembered that most of the prov-

incial governments have embarked on

revenue producing enterprises which

have absorbed much of their borrowings.

A statement of the combined revenue

and expenditure of the nine Provinces

for the last three years is as follows:

1917. 1918. 1919.

Revenue. \$57,962,577. \$70,249,743. \$75,306,044.

Expenditure. \$62,110,606. \$74,368,417. \$76,655,211.

Recent advances from the Maritime

Provinces show generally prosperous

conditions, except for the delay in ship-

ment of lumber from New Brunswick to

the United States. This arises from the

refusal of Canadian railways to let Can-

adian cars cross the boundary, so long

as the American railroads fail to return

a reasonable percentage of the revenue

number of Canadian cars which they

are now using. It is conceivable that

lack of equipment might seriously in-

terfere with international trade in this

way within the next few months.

Export of pulp and paper products

from Canada reached the large total of

\$104,000,000 in the year ended March

31 last. Shipments of pulpwood were

about cut in half from the previous year,

thus lending some support to the recent

complaint from your side. At the same

time this is something that should be

easily adjusted without the irritation

which threatened in the Underwood res-

olution, which happily was left un-

signed.

Progress of Steel Mergers.

A few incidents in the field of indus-

trial finance stand out. On Friday the

shareholders of the Nova Scotia Steel

and Coal Company unanimously decided

to enter the merger to be known as

the British Empire Steel Corporation.

A group in this company has been

advocating union with the Dom-

inion Steel Corporation for some months, so it was not to be expected that serious opposition would be met. It is officially stated that Canada's Pouldries and Forgings and the Port Arthur Shipyard will probably be dropped from the merger, while the same fate may extend to other of the smaller com-

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